

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, DA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BERLIN-COPENHAGEN SERVICES

REF: COPENHAGEN 1419

1. DANISH EMBOFF ON MAY 21 DELIVERED NOTE REJECTING OUR
RENEWED REQUEST OF MAY 15 FOR APPROVAL OF BERLIN-COPENHAGEN
SERVICE AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED. TEXT FOLLOWS:

"THE EMBASSY OF DENMARK PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR, ACTING UPON INSTRUCTIONS,
TO STATE THE FOLLOWING WITH REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S
NOTE OF MAY 15, 1974, CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TURNAROUND AIR
SERVICE BETWEEN COPENHAGEN AND
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BERLIN BY A UNITED STATES AIRLINE:

"THE DANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE ONCE MORE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION TO ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE MATTER AT HAND. IN THEIR OPINION THE SPECIAL ASPECTS INHERENT IN THE MATTER HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GIVEN THEIR DUE WEIGHT FROM THE DANISH SIDE EVEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF OTHER INTERESTS. THIS IS ALSO THE CASE AS FAR AS THE PRESENT SUGGESTIONS BY THE DANISH AUTHORITIES, AS CONTAINED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF DECEMBER 11, 1973, ARE CONCERNED. THE PRESENT REQUEST BY THE U.S., HOWEVER, CONTAINS MODALITIES WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE DANISH AUTHORITIES ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE DENMARK-US AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AND MIGHT HAVE UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES AS A PRECEDENT. THE DANISH AUTHORITIES

THEREFORE MUCH TO THEIR REGRET MUST REITERATE THAT THEY CANNOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL IN STATE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF MAY 15, 1974.

"THE EMBASSY OF DENMARK AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

2. EMBOFF, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMED DEPTOFFS THAT DANISH GOVT: (A) CONSIDERS SPECIAL POLITICAL ASPECTS OF BERLIN SITUATION ADEQUATELY PROVIDED FOR UNDER DANISH COUNTER-PROPOSAL;(B) CANNOT ACCEPT COMMERCIAL HAZARDS INHERENT IN ACCEPTING AS PRECEDENT LONG STOPOVER PROPOSED IN BERLIN, IN BOTH DIRECTIONS; (C) INTENDS TO INFORM ALLIES IN BONN THAT DENMARK WILL SEEK OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN IN CIVAIR TALKS WITH GDR NEXT WEEK. HE ADDED THAT DANISH GOVT ALSO CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY OF UK REQUEST FOR SIMILAR SERVICE.

3. ACTING DEPT ASST. SECY MEADOWS TOLD EMBOFF THAT US AUTHORITIES HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING DANISH POINT OF VIEW. THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, ALREADY HAS RIGHTS TO OPERATE TO BERLIN VIA COPENHAGEN, OR TO COPENHAGEN VIA BERLIN. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BERLIN IMPOSE SPECIAL CONSTRAINTS ON COMMERCIAL AIR OPERATIONS TO AND FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CITY, THE UNITED STATES HAD ASKED THE DANISH GOVT TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL OPERATING PATTERN, INCLUDING A STOPOVER, IN SUCH OPERATIONS. INSTEAD THE DANISH GOVT, IN REJECTING THE USG PROPOSAL, HAD MERELY TAKEN THE NARROWEST OF POSSIBLE TECHNICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE STOPOVER ISSUE, APPARENTLY IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING SAS'S COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, AND WITHOUT REGARD TO THE BROADER INTERESTS

INVOLVED. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND
BECAUSE IMPACT OF PROPOSED PAA SERVICE ON SAS AND ON ANY
UK INTEREST WOULD EXIST WHETHER ON NOT STOPOVER FEATURE
WAS UTILIZED. MEADOWS SAID USG WOULD STUDY DANISH
NOTE AND RESPOND AT EARLY DATE. RUSH

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